Get in touch
If any of our pictures bring back memories for you, let us know by emailing james.milner@reachplc.com

An officer detailed to investigate proceeded to test my story twice, with the result that the revenue was again the richer, and he, alas, the poorer by the sum of one penny.

1926: Abbots Immodest Dress

A MILD sensation has been caused at Hemingford Abbots by a notice on the Rectory Gate.

It reads: "Young persons and others have adopted a style of dress which is immodest and most objectionable. I disapprove strongly of the short skirts, bare necks and bare arms and hope women will wear more to cover themselves.

"In fact, some cannot be said to be sufficiently clothed. I trust all women not to come to church so attired."

It is the work of the rector's warden, Col Charles Linton, a brisk, short, military-looking man who belongs to the Victorian era and speaks his mind bluntly.

1924: Asbestos pinched

WHEN workmen arrived at a pair of council houses in the course of erection on Cambridge Road, Lt Thetford, they found there had been intruders during the night who had helped themselves pretty freely to what they could find.

Tools belonging to Mr Robert Rayner of Stretham and Mr Cornwell of Ely were missing. A considerable amount of timber, asbestos sheeting and other materials had been removed and a new door displaced from its hinges and taken also.

1922: Burning pumps possible

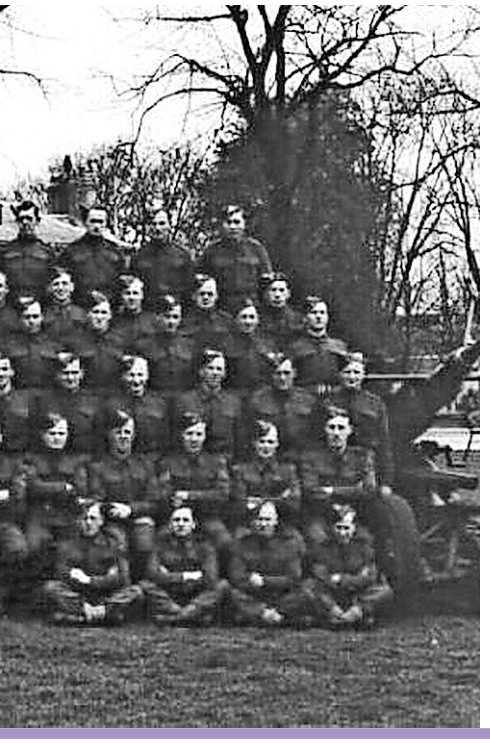
SIR, Many Cambridge people will be surprised at the mayor's surprise that petrol pumps are not allowed in Cambridge streets.

Memories of past Cambridge "rags", and those of the future to come, should have convinced him of the danger of such an appliance.

Many an undergrad would simply love to tear it from the pavement and cart it in triumph to his lodgings, and went he went "down" to take it home and say: "Look, mater, what I did."

No, sir, undergraduates' pranks are bad enough at times, and no one desires to see a flaming chariot of burning wood deposited near a petrol pump.

Yours etc, Safety First



1914: Wounded arrive

ABOUT five weeks ago thousands of British soldiers, summoned from all parts of the United Kingdom, were under canvas at Cambridge in readiness for departure to the front.

Their destination was unknown, and it was naturally surmised by the men that they would be going to Belgium.

Yesterday afternoon, some of these soldiers returned to Cambridge, maimed in some cases and badly wounded in other cases.

The ambulance train arrived at Cambridge at about 5pm, carrying 130 wounded men from infantry, cavalry and artillery regiments.

In 30 cases, the soldiers were unable to walk, and were carried from the train on stretchers by the local members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments, and thence to Trinity College, the headquarters of the 1st Eastern General Hospital.

Included in the wounded were men of the East and West Yorks Regiments, Royal Fusiliers, RHA, Norfolks, and Suffolks, and a large proportion of them were men of the brigade which was encamped in Cambridge recently.

More wounded arrived, including a number of men recently at Cambridge, who expressed their delight at returning to the place they were so well treated.

Among them was the Haslingfield postman, who cheerfully called: "I told you I should come back."

At Trinity College, bugler Edwin Royston, who was on duty at the gate, suddenly recognised his half-brother, Sgt Hubert Wootten, among the wounded.

He did not know he had gone to the front, much less that he was returned.

Both brothers belong to Cambridge, their relatives living in Willow Walk.

1914: Littleport mortuary

THERE was a great need of a mortuary for the Littleport area together with a post-mortem room.

At present, bodies have to be placed in barns and outhouses where they are liable to be gnawed by rats and bitten by fleas and other insects.

A proper hygienic place should be provided for the reception of bodies upon which it is necessary to hold inquests, Ely RDC was told.

1914: Barge drowning

A WATERMAN employed by Feltwell Drainage Commissioners said he was leading a horse which was drawing four barges down the river to Ely.

Near Littleport Bridge, his companion shouted that Fred had fallen overboard.

He immediately stopped the horse but the barges went on for another 50 yards.

He ran back but failed to reach the man with a hook. If they had had a "cock-boat" they might have saved him, but the commissioners did not supply one.

Loading a barge near Littleport

PEOPLE'S PET Mirror AWARDS Webbox DogsTrust

An uplifting celebration of Britain's most inspirational pets

PETS ARE FOR LIFE, NOT JUST LOCKDOWN

NOMINATE NOW

THEPEOPLESPETAWARDS.CO.UK

National Dog Survey

TAKE THE DOGS TRUST SURVEY NOW